



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD NETS FIRST INDICTMENT
IN WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS UNDER
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION ACT (A.K.A. ADAM WALSH ACT)**

*Project Safe Childhood Also Going Strong In Western Texas
As "Think Before You Post" Campaign Gets Underway*

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that the first indictment in the Western District of Texas under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (18 USC 2250)—also known as the Adam Walsh Act— was returned by a federal grand jury in Waco. In that indictment—unsealed Wednesday—Ricky Dean Lucas of Lorena, Texas, is charged with failure to register as a sex offender.

According to court records, on October 13, 2004, Lucas was released from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice after completing a five-year prison term for violations of Prohibited Sexual conduct and Indecency with a Child Sexual Conduct. At the time, he was informed of his responsibilities regarding reporting and staying in compliance with his sex offender status. Allegedly, on October 30, 2006, Lucas traveled from Lorena, Texas, to the Wichita, Kansas area to avoid complying with his sex offender registration requirements. Not only did Lucas fail to register in Kansas upon arrival, he also failed to update his registration in Texas to reflect a change of address. Lucas was arrested in Pratt, Kansas, on March 11, 2007, by deputy United States Marshals and is awaiting transfer back to the Western District of Texas.

Upon conviction, Lucas faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine. This case was investigated by the United States Marshals Service and the Lone Star Fugitive Task Force together with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Texas Department of Public Safety – Criminal Intelligence Section and the Pratt (KS) Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Greg Gloff.

Launched in May 2006, Project Safe Childhood is a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims.

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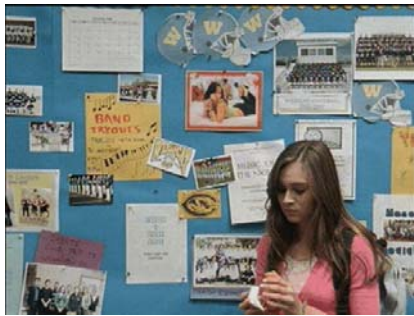
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“Project Safe Childhood is going strong in the Western District of Texas,” stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. Since February 2006, approximately 44 Project Safe Childhood cases have been filed district-wide.

“Nothing is more precious and innocent than a child. Everyone must be aware of the dangers that lurk on the Internet for our children. PSC is our effort to educate parents and community leaders about those dangers and serve notice on would be predators that we intend to find you and put you in prison,” stated Sutton.



Sutton also noted that the Justice Department together with the Ad Council and National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) are entering a new phase of their Online Sexual Exploitation public service advertising (PSA) campaign designed to educate teenage girls about the potential dangers of posting and sharing personal information online. The new PSAs—entitled *Think Before You Post*—will be distributed to television and radio stations nationwide and can be viewed on the Ad Council’s Web site at www.adcouncil.org.

Popular social networking sites such as MySpace, Facebook, and Sconex make it easier for teens to post and share personal information, pictures and videos, which may make them more vulnerable to online predators.

“These ads tell it like it is—*Think Before You Post*,” stated Sutton. “Once you place pictures of yourself on the Internet, you have no control of what happens next.”

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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